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Man Charged with Capital Murder in Pomona Shootings

A 35-year-old man was charged today with shooting at a Pomona home—killing an 8-year-old boy—and opening fire on the same residence three more times, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Sengchan Houl (dob 12/14/81) of Pomona has been charged with six felony counts in case KA114915: one count each of murder and shooting from a motor vehicle and four counts of shooting at an inhabited dwelling.

The felony complaint includes a special circumstance allegation that the murder was intentional and perpetrated by means of discharging a firearm from a motor vehicle, intentionally at another person and persons outside the vehicle with the intent to inflict death.

The charging document also alleges that the defendant personally and intentionally discharged a handgun, which caused great bodily injury and death to the murder victim.

Houl is scheduled to be arraigned today in Department N of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Pomona Branch. Prosecutors are asking that the defendant be held without bail.

Deputy District Attorney Martin Bean, who is assigned to the case, said on Feb. 20, Houl was allegedly in a vehicle when he shot at a home in 1100 block of West 11th Street in Pomona.

During the shooting, victim Jonah Hwang, 8, was struck by the gunfire, the prosecutor said. The child later died from his injuries.

According to the prosecutor, Houl had reportedly shot at the same Pomona home on Jan. 27, March 7 and March 25.

On March 26, law enforcement arrested the defendant in connection with the shootings.

If convicted as charged, Houl faces the death penalty or life in state prison without the

possibility of parole. A decision on whether to seek the death penalty will be made at a later date.

The case is being investigated by the Pomona Police Department.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.